

incorporated within one of subscriber units 102, the MAC data may include access requests. The MAC data is input to, e.g., a Reed-Solomon encoder 304. Reed-Solomon encoder 304 is a type of block coder and outputs s_1 bits of data for every input r_1 bits of input data. Since s_1 is greater than r_1 , Reed-Solomon encoder 304 introduces redundancy. A convolutional encoder 306 introduces further redundancy. For each k_1 input bits, convolutional encoder 306 outputs n_1 bits. A constellation mapper 308 assigns complex values to groups of input bits. The output of constellation mapper 308 is a series of such complex values, referred to as symbols. Each symbol represents a magnitude and phase of a carrier signal to be transmitted over the air.

In the Claims

Please replace the pending claims with the following:

1. In a digital communication system employing a transmission medium shared among multiple users, a transmitter system comprising:

a first encoder that encodes data related to coordinating access to said transmission medium according to a first encoding scheme;

a second encoder that encodes data not related to coordinating access to said transmission medium according to a second encoding scheme; and

a control system that allocates transmission time between output of said first encoder and said second encoder; and

wherein said first encoding scheme introduces more redundancy than said second encoding scheme.

2. The transmitter system of claim 1 wherein said first encoding scheme and said second encoding scheme comprise convolutional encoding schemes and said first encoding scheme has a lower rate than said second encoding scheme.

3. The transmitter system of claim 1 wherein said first encoding scheme and said second encoding scheme comprise trellis encoding schemes and first encoding scheme has a lower rate than said second encoding scheme.